

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

January 9, 1997

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Conference Rooms D and E of the James Monroe Building in Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, January 9, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.
Mrs. Kay Coles James

Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mr. R. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Ms. Easton noted that Mr. Decker and Senator Bell would not be attending the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ware gave the invocation and led in Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. James made a motion for approval of the minutes of the November 18 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ware and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

The motion was made by Mrs. Yecke, seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda.

Highlight on Students

Under the direction of Mr. Frank M. Rodgers, The Strolling Silver Strings of Norfolk City Public Schools performed.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda:

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund
Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for
Placement on Waiting List

The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of October 31, 1996, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the applications for Literary Fund Loans for the following projects was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda, subject to approval of final plans (Section 22.1-140 of the *Code of Virginia*) and availability of funds:

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Poquoson City	Poquoson Primary	450,000.00
Chesapeake City	Norfolk Highlands Primary	5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,450,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that no funds be released as available funds are being held to meet statutory requirements. In addition, it is recommended that funding for 2 projects in the amount of \$5,450,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List.

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Poquoson City	Poquoson Primary	450,000.00
Chesapeake City	Norfolk Highlands Primary	5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,450,000.00

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Dr. La Pointe discussed the status report on the Standards of Learning. He indicated that the materials had been submitted to the subcommittee and General Assembly. Dr. La Pointe indicated that approximately 75% of school divisions anticipate full implementation of the standards by this school year, 1997-98 and an additional 13% of school divisions anticipate full implementation by 1998-99. Dr. La Pointe stated that Texas, California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Michigan, and Maine are considering adopting the Virginia Standards of Learning.

Mr. Harris thinks the Board needs to review the resolution voted on at the last meeting concerning inservice for local school board members. He is concerned about the quality of courses that local board members will take.

Mrs. Yecke requested that each board member receive a copy of the Fall 1996 issue of The American Educator published by the American Federation of Teachers.

Mrs. Yecke also stated that a reminder should be sent out to local school divisions every November via monthly newsletter sent out by board president or superintendent memo as a reminder of

the guidelines concerning religious activities in public schools.

Mrs. Yecke discussed a letter received from a parent in Prince William County concerning the implementation of citizen program where a student has to earn a credit in behavior in order to graduate.

Mrs. Yecke gave the letter and attachments to Dr. La Pointe and asked him to find out what Prince William County has done regarding graduation requirement in reference to the citizen program and report back to the board at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Easton thanked Cathy Clark and Kathy Kitchen for the years of service they have given assisting the Board of Education and school superintendents. Mrs. Kitchen and Mrs. Clark are leaving the Department of Education to work with Chesterfield County Public Schools.

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Final Review of Appointments to the Proprietary Schools Advisory Committees

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to nominate Alfred Dryful and Robert F. Dame to the Proprietary Schools Advisory Committee to serve two-year terms effective March 1, 1997 to April 30, 1999. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to nominate Thomas Smolinski, E. T. Morris and Kenneth B. Clark to Proprietary School Guaranty Fund Advisory Committee to serve three-year terms effective March 1, 1997 to April 30, 2000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

First Review of the 1995-96 Evaluation of the Virginia Governor=s Schools

Dr. Thomas Shortt and Dr. Janie Craig provided information in response to a Board of Education request for an evaluation of statewide Governor=s School programs for gifted students. Evaluations of all Governor Schools programs are done annually. The Department of Education conducted evaluations of two academic year, ten summer regionals, and three summer residential Governor=s School programs and found them to be good examples of interdisciplinary instruction, parent and community involvement, rigorous academic and artistic standards, and innovative use of instructional technology. Most programs are depending more heavily on the participating school divisions to share program expenses. It was noted that the location of the Thomas Jefferson Governor=s School in Richmond is still unsettled.

There was much discussion on the funding of the Governor=s School program. Dr. Craig explained that the summer regional and summer residential programs were 100% funded through the General Assembly during the first year of operation but, as the operating cost increased, the funding was cut in half requiring each participating local school divisions to finance 50% of the funding. The academic year

Governor's School is a separate legislation which is funded based on a full day enrollment or \$2,765 per pupil from the General Assembly. The remainder is made up by participating localities.

There was also concern that funding for a new Governor School would take away funding from existing programs.

Report on the Proposed Governor's School for Southwest Virginia

The Board received a progress report on plans for a proposed new Governor's School for Gifted Students in Southwest Virginia. The school will be known as A. Linwood Holton Governor's School and will open in the fall of 1998.

Final Review of Request for Academic Year Governor's School

During the lengthy discussion of the application for the Commonwealth Governor's School, members of the Board expressed concern about the lack of funding and the lack of personal contact among students on a regular basis.

Mrs. Yecke made a motion for the Board to approve the Commonwealth Governor's School based on the following four requirements:

- Funding for the school be provided by the Virginia General Assembly so that state money for existing Governor's School programs will not be decreased.
- All technology components will be in place, teacher selection and training will be completed, and approval is received from the International Baccalaureate organization, which will offer the diploma program for the school.
- Physical student-to-student contact, either in cluster groups or for the entire school, will be increased to minimum of one a week and on a regular basis.
- Regular progress reports will be made to the Board of Education.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board of Education go into executive session under Virginia Code '2.1-344.A for the following: discussion with counsel of litigation, Virginia School Boards

Association v. Virginia Board of Education, as permitted under subsection 7; discussion of the content and format of assessment tests, as permitted under subsection 11; discussion of personal information and personnel matters related to allegations made concerning Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (Staunton), as permitted under subsections 1 and 4. Mrs. James seconded the motion and the Board went into executive session at 12:50 p.m.

Ms. Easton made a motion that the Board certify by roll call that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Ms. Easton - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye
Mrs. James - Aye
Mr. Patterson - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained but gave his word that the Board did, in fact, follow procedures.

The Board reconvened in public session at 2:20 p.m.

Mrs. James made a motion that the Board receive and support the Superintendent's efforts being made at the Virginia School for Deaf and Blind and that the Board receive a report every six months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ware and carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

Rasha Al-Assi
Charles Brown
Vickie Messick
Jim Murphy

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Potential 1997 Legislative Issues

Board members indicated their positions on 1997 legislative issues as follows:

1. Support local board control of school calendar - **Support**
2. Charter Schools - **Support**
3. Civil Immunity - health-related assistance - **Support**
4. Civil Immunity - discipline - **Support**
5. Teacher term contract - **Monitor**
6. Binding Arbitration - **Oppose**
7. Weighted pupil/teacher ratios for disabled students - **Monitor**
8. Governance/consolidation of VSDBs - **Support**
9. Emphasis on elementary physical education - **Monitor**
10. Require 2.0 average to play sports - **Monitor**
11. Credentials for teachers of the blind - **Monitor**
12. Establishing pupil/teacher ratios for blind students - **Monitor**
13. School nurses/health services - **Monitor**
14. Remedial summer school funding - **Monitor**
15. Planning time for elementary teachers - **Support subject to appropriations**
16. Participation by home schooled and private schooled students (ADM & testing

access) - **Support**

17. Transportation for private school students - **Monitor**
18. Literary fund; expanded VPSA loan capacity - **Support**
19. Statewide Mandatory Criminal Records Checks - **Support with state funding**
20. Voluntary random drug testing-athletes - **Monitor**
21. Mandatory testing for substance & alcohol use - all students - **Oppose**
22. Increased penalties for violating school bus safety - **Support**
23. Reducing from 18 to 16 the age at which students can legally leave school - **Support**

Mrs. Yecke discussed the issue of the 11th grade test being turned into a series of end of course tests. This means the test will be taken in whatever grade the course is taken and the record will be kept on file until graduation. By a show of hands the board supported a bill for end-of- course tests.

Mr. Ware made a motion that all positions taken by the Board, as noted by Diane Atkinson, the Board supports. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Update on the Accreditation of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Virginia State University

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education support the Advisory Board's recommendation and approve the continued accreditation of the initial and advanced-level programs at Virginia State University through the spring of 2001.

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to accept the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

First Review to Begin APA Process for Revising the Standards for Interdepartmental Regulation of Residential Facilities for Children.

The Superintendent's request is that the Board waive first review of this item and grant final approval, thereby joining the three other respective Boards and that the Board approve the Pre-NOIRA filing to repeal the Standards for Interdepartmental Regulation of Residential Facilities for Children.

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to approve the Pre-NOIRA filing. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and the motion carried unanimously.

Feasibility of Establishing Program Standards for Students with Visual Impairments

At the November meeting the Board requested from the Department information about establishing program standards for students with visual impairments, including caseloads for teacher of the visually impaired. Jim Williams presented to the Board the current positions of various advocacy groups regarding this topic. The Board received the presentation for discussion purposes.

Revision of the Standards of Accreditation

The timeline for revising the Standards of Accreditation was discussed. It was noted that in order for the standards to go into effect by September of this year all materials have to be in the Registrar's office by noon on February 26. Because of this, Mrs. Yecke proposed to change the February 27 board meeting to February 25. Ms. Easton asked Dr. Laws to check into the possibility of changing the next board meeting date to February 25. By a show of hands, all board members present, except Mrs. James, made a commitment to attend the meeting on February 25, if the date can be changed.

Board of Education's Guidelines on Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

The following draft guidelines of the Pledge of Allegiance for public schools were reviewed for the first time by the Board:

1. The Pledge of Allegiance may be made part of the curriculum of the public schools.
2. No student can be compelled to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance if he or his parents object, on religious or philosophical grounds, to his participating in such an exercise.
3. The school should not subject the dissenting student to any unfavorable comment or stigmatizing treatment.
4. The non-participating student can be required to refrain from any activity that

disrupts or distracts those making the Pledge.

5. All students can be required to learn the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 3:55 p.m.

President